Biden slammed for taking credit for COVID-19 vaccine, not thanking Trump

By Lia Eustachewich

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Critics are blasting President Biden for taking credit for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout — and failing to thank former President Donald Trump for <u>initiating Operation Warp Speed</u>, which produced the jab within one year.

In <u>his first prime-time address</u> Thursday night, Biden praised his administration for taking a "war footing" when it comes to combating the virus, assuring that every American will be eligible for a vaccine starting May 1.

Pundits like Fox News host Sean Hannity took aim at Biden for trying "to take credit for everything that Donald Trump did on COVID-19," noting that three vaccines were already in development by the time Biden took office.

"There were already a million vaccines being administered into people's arms every single day when Biden was sworn in, 36 million doses had already been distributed," <u>Hannity said</u>.

He continued, "Joe, you want unity? Why don't you just thank Donald Trump? You want us all to get along, you say. No Trump, no vaccine, Joe. Stop trying to take credit for something, frankly, you had nothing to do with. Nothing."

Ronna McDaniel, chair of the Republican National Committee, accused Biden of "not being straight with Americans," including "on vaccines."

"He is claiming Operation Warp Speed never existed," she tweeted.

Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.) also blasted Biden for his remark.

"Tonight, @POTUS Biden showed no grace or appreciation for the leadership that led to Operation Warp Speed and the development of a safe and effective vaccine," <u>Hagerty tweeted</u>.

Former New York Rep. Nan Hayworth (R-NY) agreed that Trump deserves all the credit.

"'MY Administration,' says President Biden, over and over again," she tweeted. "The ONLY reason he can do any of the things he's doing for vaccines and vaccination is Operation Warp Speed. The ONLY President deserving extraordinary credit here is President TRUMP!"

Conservative commentator Katie Pavlich <u>wrote</u>, "Biden taking credit for the vaccine is just absolutely astonishing, but not surprising."

On Wednesday, Trump issued a statement saying Americans would have been waiting years for a COVID-19 vaccine if it weren't for him.

"I hope everyone remembers when they're getting the COVID-19 (often referred to as the China Virus) Vaccine, that if I wasn't President, you wouldn't be getting that beautiful 'shot' for 5 years, at best, and probably wouldn't be getting it at all," Trump said.